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COUNTRY **Yugoslavia** REPORT 25X1

SUBJECT **Trial of Milovan Djilas** DATE DISTR. **24 October 1955** 25X1

NO. OF PAGES **2**

DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO. **RD** 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Prior to 25X1
 30 November 1954, the reopening of the Djilas case was apparently not mentioned in the Federal Executive Council or in the Central Committee of the Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia (FCY). It is not certain why Vice President Edvard Kardelj wanted Djilas sentenced in a court trial, but FCY members generally agree that the "Djilas case" was the work of Kardelj. 25X1
2. The daily radio communications between the Yugoslav Government and Tito's ship, the Galeb were interrupted from the day prior to the Djilas-Dedijer trial until the publication of the sentence. Members of the Central Committee of the FCY interpreted this as indicative of a split between Tito and Rankovic on the one hand, and Kardelj on the other, over the sentence. 25X1
3. 25X1
 a few days before the Djilas trial, Kardelj stated that it was amusing how much the foreign world worried about Yugoslav democracy. Kardelj added that every day he had to answer the questions of various foreign journalists as well as to listen to or read pleas in favor of Djilas coming from Socialist leaders and high ranking personalities from all over the world. 25X1
4. The day before the trial, passes for admission to the court were distributed to foreign correspondents, Yugoslav journalists, professional men and relatives of the defendants, but 80 per cent of the total number of passes distributed were given to UDB personnel. When the trial was declared secret, about 20 UDB men, five or six professional people, and relatives of the defendant were allowed to attend the trial.
5. When Djilas entered the courtroom, his sister Milka, wife of Komen Cerovic, shouted, "Djido, be courageous! Behave so that I can be proud of you for the rest of my life."
6. Djilas pleaded not guilty. On the question of the president of the court

S-E-C-R-E-T

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as to whether he believed it correct to turn to the foreign press to complain about the lack of democracy in Yugoslavia, Djilas stated that it was not his fault that Yugoslavia was so democratic that no one could even say a word about his views. He added that no one would have found anything wrong in his actions if Kardelj had not raised such a storm about the matter in Sarajevo. He concluded by stating that the truth is only one and it makes no difference where and by whom it is stated and made public.

7. The Public Prosecutor and the president of the court attempted to twist Djilas' statement regarding dictatorship and police methods and asked him what he meant by attributing inquisitorial methods to the regime. Djilas stated that the difference between the medieval Inquisition and the methods by which the regime maintains itself in power consisted in the fact that the regime applies horrible psychological pressure in addition to physical torture.
8. After many unsuccessful attempts of the court to ridicule Djilas, the Public Prosecutor asked him to make some explanations about his theories. Djilas refused to do so, stating that he considered the Public Prosecutor incapable of understanding such a matter, because if this were not the case, the Public Prosecutor would certainly be doing a more useful job. Then Djilas became very arrogant and asked the court what they wanted out of him since sooner or later they would have to pronounce his sentence, which they had already received in the form of an order.
9. During the trial Djilas had full control over himself. He was fearless, proud and stubborn and actually turned the case to his advantage. Dedijs, however, was weak, and a toy in the hands of the prosecutor and the court who ridiculed him as they pleased.

Comment:

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1. Prior to the Djilas trial Komnen Cerovic had already been dropped from the Central Committee of the Federation of Communists of Montenegro. On 27 January 1955, he was deprived of his seat in the Montenegrin Assembly.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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